Jan. 31, 1933. W. R. BUXTON 1,895,782

PASS CASE

Filed March 10, 1931

Fig. 1.

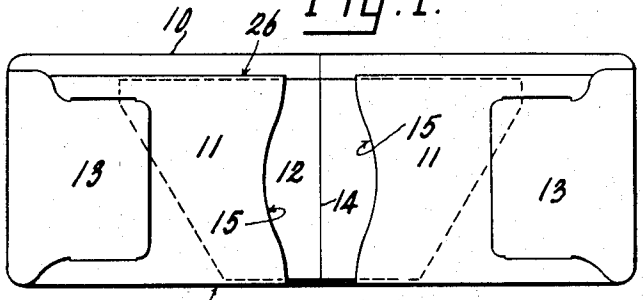


Fig. 3.

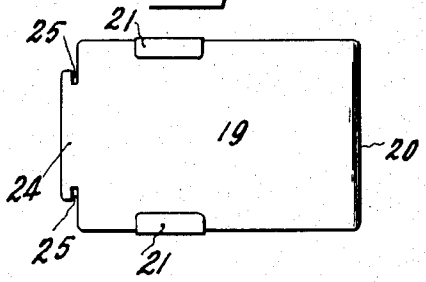


Fig. 2.

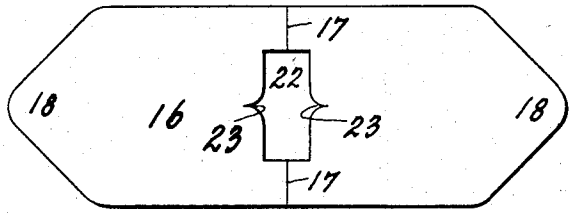


Fig. 4.

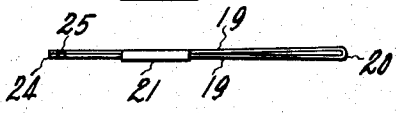


Fig. 5.

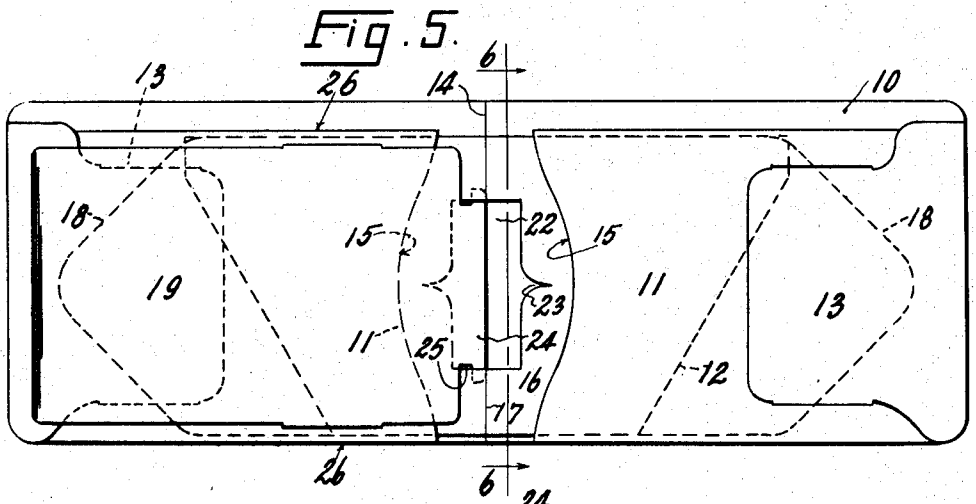


Fig. 6.

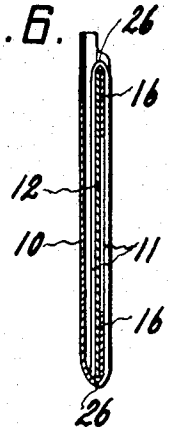
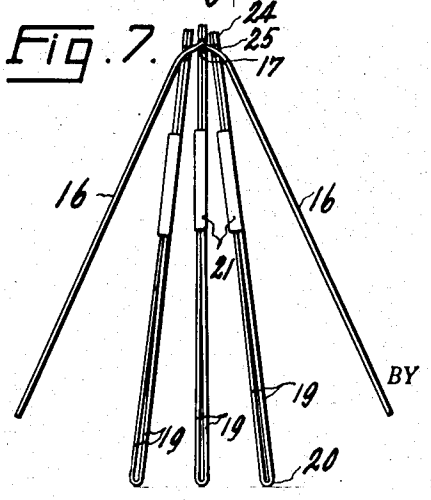


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PASS CASE

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This invention relates to improvements in pass cases. The invention has one important use in connection with bill folds,—enabling pass cards or the like, one or more as desired, to be conveniently carried in a bill fold. Thus the invention in one aspect may be said to relate to a combination bill fold and pass case, although the invention is capable of other uses.

While the pass cards might be placed directly in the pockets of the bill fold, this does not satisfy many users who prefer an arrangement whereby the pass cards may be quickly and conveniently displayed while retained within window envelopes or envelopes made wholly of transparent material. A desirable arrangement involves a hinged mounting of these envelopes, so that they may be turned like leaves of a book, enabling the user to rapidly find the desired envelope and display the card therein. A permanent mounting of the card-containing envelopes in the bill fold is usually not desired. Most users prefer an arrangement whereby the envelopes may be readily attached to a standard bill fold and as readily detached therefrom when use of the cards is not required.

It has been proposed heretofore, as a means of meeting these conditions, to provide a plurality of card-carrying envelopes permanently connected for hinging movement to a flexible strap, the ends of which are tucked into pockets of a bill fold. Such an arrangement is open to the objection that it is not expansible and contractible to suit the needs of the user. Sometimes a single envelope only needs to be carried. At others, many are necessary. An ideal solution of the problem demands a detachable mounting of the envelopes on their retaining strap with provisions enabling one to carry as many or as few envelopes as are necessary or desired. Moreover, having in mind that the envelopes form very stiff "leaves" because of the celluloid or like material used in their construction, a rigid binding of the envelopes to the retaining strap does not afford an ideal solution. The permanent binding of the leaves to the retaining strap affords a hinged mounting which lacks easy flexibility. Since the leaves are relatively inflexible in themselves, the binding ought to afford a large measure of flexibility and this is not available with the prior art binding, above set forth.

The general object of the invention is to provide in a device of the class described, a loose leaf mounting of the card-carrying envelopes on the retaining strap and a mounting which enables full freedom of hinging movement relatively thereto.

Another object of the invention is to provide for the loose leaf mounting by a tongue and slot or equivalent connection between the flexible retaining strap and the relatively less flexible card-containing leaves,—the latter being readily detachable from the strap when the same is withdrawn from the pockets of the bill fold because the strap is flexible and can readily bend enough to permit the disengagement. A characterizing feature of this arrangement is that the ends of the strap are inserted in two closely spaced pockets which serve to hold the strap against such spreading or bending movement as would permit accidental disengagement of the envelopes.

Other objects and advantages will appear as the detailed description proceeds and will be pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention will be disclosed for illustrative purposes with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of an open bill fold with which the pass retainer may be used;

Fig. 2 is a like view of the retaining strap on which the card-containing envelopes are mounted;

Figs. 3 and 4 are front and side elevational views, respectively, of one of such envelopes;

Fig. 5 is an elevational view showing the pass case device combined with the bill fold;

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5; and

Fig. 7 is a top plan view of the pass retaining device prior to connection with the bill fold.

Referring to the drawing: The bill fold, shown by way of illustrative example, com-

prises an outer wall 10, and an inner wall composed of three sections, of which the two marked 11 are tubular and the central section, marked 12, is telescopically received in the confronting and closely spaced open ends of the tubular sections 11. The outer ends of these tubular sections are suitably closed,—in this case by end flaps 13, each connected to an end of the outer wall and interlocked with the outer ply of the adjacent tubular section. These flaps also retain the several parts in the relation shown. The bill fold has a central transverse line of fold 14 about which one half may be folded over and upon the other to close the bill fold. This particular bill fold construction is illustrative of a general type with which the invention may be used. The particular construction shown is not essential to the present invention and may be varied within wide limits as desired. The only elements of present importance are the closely spaced pockets 15 having confronting open mouths to receive the retaining strap for the card containers.

The retaining strap is shown in Fig. 2. It consists of a strip 16 of leather or the like having a central transverse line of fold 17 to lie substantially coincident with the line of fold 14 and ends 18 which are preferably more or less pointed, as shown, to facilitate insertion of the strap in the pockets 15. As shown in Fig. 5, by far the larger portion of this strap is contained within the pockets and only a short central area is exposed between the open ends of these pockets. The strap is of a width such as to substantially fill the pockets in order to snugly retain the strap, although permitting it sufficient freedom to slide easily therein in a longitudinal direction to avoid buckling when the bill fold is closed.

The card containing envelopes may be variously constructed as desired. It is usually desired to display the card without withdrawal of it from the envelope. This necessitates that the envelope be constructed at least in part of transparent material. Generally, celluloid or the like is used for the purpose and this means that the envelope is relatively stiff and inflexible. By preference, I construct the envelopes entirely of celluloid or the like although, as I have indicated, this is not necessarily essential to the present invention. As shown, a strip of such material is doubled over, forming two walls 19, integrally connected at 20. Between these walls 19 one or more cards (usually two placed back to back) may be inserted. To retain the walls 19 against accidental separation, ears 21 are formed, one along each side edge of one wall 19 and overlying the other wall 19. The material being resilient, the last mentioned wall 19 may be sprung out from in under the ears 21 and the two walls 19 sprung apart to enable easy insertion or removal of the cards.

The preferred means of securing the "loose-leaf" mounting of these envelopes on the retaining strap is by the use of a tongue and slot connection. Conveniently, the slot is in the strap and the tongue on the envelope. The arrangement, however, is capable of variation and the important feature is that there are grooves in the envelope to receive parts of the strap whether or not the strap is slotted. As shown, the strap has a wide central slot 22 and there may be slits, as at 23, to enable easy lateral spreading of the side walls of the slot. The envelopes have a T-shaped tongue 24 formed on at least one and preferably both of the walls 19 adjacent their unconnected ends. The tongue 24 affords grooves 25 in which those portions of the strap 16 which border on the sides of slot 22 are received,—the central portion or narrow neck of the tongue lying between these grooves being received in slot 22. It will be appreciated that the side walls of slot 22 can be readily spread apart far enough to permit insertion of the larger part of tongue 24 and then moved toward one another to engage the strap in grooves 25.

The problem comes in preventing separation of such walls and the resulting disengagement of the envelopes from the strap. This problem is solved by inserting the strap in the pockets 15 with a snug enough fit and having the pockets so closely spaced that spreading of the side walls of slot 22 is prevented at least to a degree sufficient to permit disengagement of the envelopes therefrom. The tubular sections 11, in which the strap closely but slidably fits, and particularly the side walls 26 thereof, confine the side edges of the strap so closely that spreading of the same in the short exposed central portion of the strap is prevented at least to a degree sufficient for the purpose. The action, which is essentially one of confining the sides of the strap and holding the strap in flat form, is increased when the bill fold is closed. The tubes 11 then slide in more closely to the hinge line 17, leaving appreciably less area of the strap exposed outside the pockets and consequently permitting even less spreading of the walls of the slot 22 than was permitted when the bill fold was open. The tubes 11 are spaced sufficiently close so as to prevent disengagement of the envelopes from the strap when the bill fold is open, but when the bill fold is closed the envelopes are held more tightly in place. This is a desirable feature because the envelopes are held more tightly when not in use and, when use of them is required, as when the bill fold is opened, the holding means is relaxed to an extent to permit easy movement of the envelopes. They can swing easily on their hinge connection to the retaining strap and also slide along it to a certain extent.

The invention is not confined entirely to

the use of the tubular sections of the bill fold as a means for retaining the envelopes in place on their flexible binding strap 16. According to the broader features of the invention, any other means which can be slid along the strap to hold it in flat form and confine its side edges against spreading at a location adjacent the slot 22, may be used. So also, the bill fold which really forms a pair of hinged covers for the loose leaf binder 16, is not essential for all purposes, although it is the type of cover most generally used.

The invention affords a desirable form of loose leaf binder for relatively stiff leaves, such as the envelopes described, enabling as many or as few to be carried as desired and enabling full freedom of movement of the leaves on the binder strap to permit quick and convenient selection and display of the desired pass card. This loose leaf binder is characterized by tubular or at least partly tubular elements which are slidable along the binder strap into position to confine its side edges against such spreading and prevent the strap from bending to such an extent as might cause disengagement of the leaves from the binder.

What I claim is:

1. In combination, a flexible binder strap, a relatively stiff and not readily flexible leaf having opposed grooves near one end thereof in which grooves edges of said strap are engaged to permit swinging and limited sliding movement of the leaf relatively to the strap, and means slidably engaged with the strap on opposite sides of said leaf and movable into position to hold said edges against disengagement from said grooves.

2. In combination, a flexible binder strap having intermediate its ends a slot two edges of which substantially parallel the side edges of the strap, a relatively stiff and not readily flexible leaf having near one end a T-shaped tongue affording opposed grooves in which said edges are slidably engaged, and means slidably engaged with said strap on opposite sides of said leaf to confine the side edges of the strap against spreading apart to an extent sufficient to disengage the first named edges from said grooves.

3. In combination, a flexible binder strap, a relatively stiff and not readily flexible leaf having opposed grooves near one end thereof in which grooves edges of said strap are engaged to permit swinging and limited sliding movement of the leaf relatively to the strap, and tubular members each closely fitting and slidably engaging said strap and disposed one on each side of said leaf and in close proximity thereto to hold said edges against disengagement from said grooves.

4. In combination, a flexible binder strap having intermediate its ends a slot two edges of which substantially parallel the side edges of the strap, a relatively stiff and not readily flexible leaf having near one end a T-shaped tongue affording opposed grooves in which said edges are slidably engaged, and tubular members each closely fitting and slidably engaging said strap and disposed one on each side of said leaf and in close proximity thereto to confine the side edges of the strap against spreading to an extent sufficient to disengage the first named edges from said grooves.

5. In combination, a pair of cover members hinged together each having on its inner face a pocket, said pockets disposed one on each side of the hinged connection of the covers and having confronting open ends located in close proximity to said connection, a flexible binder strap engaged in part in one pocket and in part in the other pocket and spanning the space therebetween, and a relatively stiff and not easily flexible leaf having near one end a pair of opposed grooves in which the central exposed portion of said strap is engaged to permit sliding and swinging of the leaf without bending the same.

6. In combination, a pair of cover members hinged together each having on its inner face a pocket, said pockets disposed one on each side of the hinged connection of the covers and having confronting open ends located in close proximity to said connection, a flexible binder strap engaged in part in one pocket and in part in the other pocket and spanning the space therebetween, said strap having a slot in the portion exposed between said pockets, a relatively stiff and not easily flexible leaf having near one end a T-shaped tongue extending through said slot and affording grooves in which portions of the strap bordering on said slot are engaged to permit sliding and swinging of the leaf relatively thereto.

7. In a device of the class described, a display container for cards, comprising, a strip of resilient transparent material doubled over to form two integrally united walls between which a card may be received, the free ends of each of said walls having a pair of grooves, and a binder strap slidably engaged in said grooves and partially closing one end of the card container to prevent escape of the card therein.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

WARNER R. BUXTON.